

As regards the Ezhava Bill, I quite appreciate the spirit in which Mr. Krishnan Asan made his remarks. There is the legislature which has been given power to frame laws for the country. Ordinarily, it is that body that should enact laws. It is always open to the members of this House like Mr. Asan to educate the electorate and the members of the Council in regard to his own views, convince them of the soundness of his views and impress upon them the volume of the opinion which he voices, and it is always open to any member of the Council to bring forward amendments to the Regulation.

In regard to the representation of the Misradayi portion of the Ezhava community on the Legislative Council, I would point out that there were two members of the Misradaya community on the Legislative Council which has just been dissolved. I do not therefore see any point in Mr. Krishnan Asan's representation. Mr. Paramesvaran was opposed to the provisions of the present Bill. He was a nominated member of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Krishnan Asan also spoke about the representation of Ezhavas in the Popular Assembly. We do nominate more than one representative of the Ezhava community to the Popular Assembly. I believe the usual number of nominations from the community is six. The request now made for nominating from both the sects will be remembered by Government when the nominations are made.

The member spoke of religious education and said that a portion of the Devaswom fund should be diverted for giving religious instruction. It is a very wide subject. Although discussion regarding Devaswoms is not allowed under the rules, the suggestion is one which will be examined by the Government.

The member then urged the necessity for commercial agents in various countries to put the exporters of the produce of this country in direct touch with the merchants of those countries. It is with a view to afford facilities in that direction that Dr. Kunjan Pillai worked when he was present at the Wembley Exhibition. Dr. Kunjan Pillai has received numerous enquiries from merchants in various countries about the produce of this country, and he is in a position to put the exporters of produce from this country in direct touch with merchants of other countries. If the facilities now afforded are taken advantage of, the question of increasing these facilities will be considered by the Government in due course.

Lastly, the member wants that financial facilities should be created for merchants. If he means merchants in the ordinary sense of the term, then such facilities have to be rendered through the agency of banks. It is with a view to increase the existing banking facilities that the Government are sanctioning the constitution of a State-aided Bank. As I said in my address, the rules relating to the bank are ready and it is expected that the bank will come into existence very soon. The extent to which the bank will be useful to the public will depend upon the extent to which the public avail themselves of the opportunities afforded by that institution. Besides this, we have recently introduced the system of granting loans for promoting cottage industries and under these rules also help can be had.

32. Needs of the Shencottah Taluk.

MR. S. A. HARIHARAKRISHNA IAIYAR (*Member, Shencottah taluk*) prayed that the tank restoration scheme, particularly as regards the minor tanks of his taluk, should be reconsidered in consultation with the ryots concerned and revised programmes of work drawn up. Some of the improvements carried out under the scheme were inadequate and unsatisfactory. Only some mud work had been done in Mulakkankulam in the Saniburvadakara *pakuthi*; frequent breaches occurred as the surplus weir of the Pambadikulam in the Ayikudi village was too narrow for the discharge during flood time; the supply channel to the Minapuri tank at Elattur needed repairs; water was leaking from the new sluice provided for the Peramaneri tank at Shencottah; and temporary work was done annually on the bank adjoining the Pambili anicut, while a masonry protection would be much cheaper.

As in 1098, a conference of the Dewan Peishkar should be held with the local ryots, when local agricultural needs, etc., could be discussed. Similar conferences should be held annually or at least once in two years till the restoration works and other agricultural improvements required for the taluk were taken up and completed.

The local ryots would be more interested in the satisfactory execution of works than contractors who cared only for profits. If previous intimation of the works were given, as is done by the Maramat Department, local men would be forthcoming to undertake the contracts.

The policy of leasing the fish produce to the ryots holding lands under the tanks was commendable, but the annual rent fixed was high, being based on the averages of the past three years when contractors who did not care for irrigational interests bid the leases in auction. Permanent leases on lower rents should be granted; and as a rule leases should not be given to individual ryots.

The village roads in the taluk should be maintained by the Government and rendered fit for cart traffic. The road from Kulattupuzha Chowkey to the Peramaneri tank, the road from the Police station to the Nadar Street in Samburvadakara, and the road from Kesavapuram to Tekkumedu stood in special need of repairs. The road from Nainarakaram to Ayikudi was unsafe for wheeled traffic and inconvenient even for pedestrians. The road should be metalled and culverts constructed where necessary. The branch roads from the west car street of Klankad should be improved and extended to the Tenkasi-Puliyankudi road. The construction of a bridge across the Hanumannadi in the place of the dismantled causeway should be expedited.

The irrigation branch should be placed under a separate overseer in the taluk. In British India, road and irrigation branches were under separate officers. The proposal would not entail additional expenditure, as the supervisor had only to be replaced by two overseers.

The town required a cattle stand and a grazing ground. One acre out of the Perumalkulam lands could be earmarked for the cattle stand. The grazing grounds on the Manpottai hills were unsatisfactory. Some dry lands should be acquired in the vicinity of the town, and the people would be prepared even to pay a cess.

The yield from agriculture was diminishing and therefore attempts should be made to survey the soils, suggest suitable manures and introduce improved methods. The agricultural inspector at Puliyara was not available for work in the taluk. A separate agricultural demonstrator should be appointed to conduct experimental cultivation. Green manure trees should be cultivated and forest panchayats organised.

Only dry cultivation was being carried on for the Kanni crop on the lands in the Klankad, Ayikudi and Samburvadakara *pakuthies* though they were classed at the settlement as double crop wet lands and high assessments were imposed. *Nanjamelpunia* remission should be allowed as dry crops were raised owing to insufficiency of water supply and not for profit.

The taluk was subject to frequent outbreaks of epidemics. Good drinking water should be supplied. Public wells should be sunk at Ayikudi immediately.

An ayurvedic dispensary should be opened at Ayikudi for the benefit of the Elattur, Ayikudi, Klankad and Samburvadakara villages.

DEWAN: Mr. Hariharakrishna Aiyar, you have dealt with a variety of subjects.

MEMBER: They are all absolutely necessary.

DEWAN: You did not give notice of all the items about which you were going to speak. You had only given notice of the headings.

MEMBER: I have mentioned certain tanks, works relating to which are not satisfactory. I only wish that the necessary repairs should be executed at an early date.

DEWAN: The Chief Engineer points out that in the western group a number of works are going on and the repairs are being attended to and that in the eastern group investigation is in progress.

MEMBER: The three items referred to by me relate to major tanks, *viz.*, Kundar, Hanumannadi and Klankad Valiyakulam.

DEWAN: There may be minor tanks in these chains.

MEMBER: They are included in the major works.

DEWAN: The works in the various basins are being attended to; and if any particular items of work are incomplete, the P. W. D. will attend to them.

MEMBER: There are many isolated tanks which do not come under any of these basins. I only refer to the fact that the major works are alone being attended to. These have been pending for the last so many years. I know this because I own lands in these localities. There are disputes as regards them. The tanks that I refer to have not received any consideration at all at the hands of the P. W. D.

DEWAN: The Chief Engineer will be asked to attend to these particular works. As they are minor tanks, the people will have to contribute towards their restoration.

MEMBER: The proposals for the restoration works regarding these tanks are incomplete. Before the restoration works are carried out, we want also to execute the new works so that the whole work may be satisfactorily completed.

DEWAN: They are also part of the restoration scheme. If the people are prepared to contribute one-half of the cost, whatever that may be, then the P. W. D. will take up the investigation and will prepare an estimate. Are you prepared to pay one-half of the cost?

MEMBER: Unless a conference of the people is held in regard to that, I cannot now say definitely whether they will be prepared to pay one-half of the cost.

DEWAN: So, you want a conference for this? You only suggested a conference of the ryots with the Peishkar once in each year about agricultural needs.

MEMBER: At the conference suggestions regarding irrigation also will be made.

DEWAN: What you want is that there must be an annual conference at which not only the Revenue officers but also P. W. D. officers should be present. They should consult the ryots and then decide as to the order of the works to be taken up for restoration. It was at my instance that the Peishkar held a conference and you admit that the conference was of great use. I have no objection to issue instructions to the Land Revenue Commissioner to ask the Peishkar to hold a conference every year as desired by you.

MEMBER: The restoration works should also be considered as early as possible.

DEWAN: You will have to make proposals at the conference and the proposals will then be considered by the department.

MEMBER: The owners of lands are under the impression that the restoration works have been stopped.

DEWAN: You may tell them that they have not been stopped.

MEMBER: The people will be satisfied if the works are taken up early.

DEWAN: Yes. They will be taken up as early as possible.

You then suggest that, in regard to restoration works, the contract should be given to the ryots themselves. The P. W. D. will be glad if the local people interested in the works come forward to take up the contract.

MEMBER: I want publication of these contracts to the effect that such and such works are to be given on contract, that the ryots interested in the works may come forward and take up the contract, and that otherwise other contractors will be engaged.

DEWAN : I suppose such notices are published.

MEMBER : The P. W. D. officer may not always be in the town and people may not be aware of any notice. What I suggest is that, if a notice is published in the *Gazette*, not only the people of Shencottah taluk but the people of the whole State may come to know of the contract.

DEWAN : If you want the notice to be published in the *Gazette*, that can be done, I think.

In regard to the fishery rents, you say that the rents are too high. I am not just now in a position to reply definitely to that part of your representation.

MEMBER : The Government in their order say that steps should be taken to ensure permanent leases to ryots. I fear that some of the ryots may not take the view of Government into consideration, because the amount is high. The object of the Government should not be frustrated.

DEWAN : You should not insist on fishing rights being given to ryots at a fixed rent. You say that a permanent lease for a reasonably long period—

MEMBER : I want the period to be a lasting one.

DEWAN : I am not in a position to answer. That is a matter of detail as to whether the amount for a particular tank is high or low. That is a matter which will have to be gone into in each individual case. The average alone is now fixed.

MEMBER : There is a petition from the people that the amount is high. They have accepted it subject to the condition that the Government may kindly consider their case.

DEWAN : People may say that, even if the average comes to Rs. 100, it is very high. Still it is the average that has to be taken into consideration. We should go on certain principles. The average for the five years ending with 1100 will be taken and the people cannot complain about that.

MEMBER : It was on the average for the last three years that the present amount has been fixed. I want the average to be fixed on the amount for the last ten years.

DEWAN : Government cannot go behind five years. It is a reasonable period of time to calculate averages. Ten years is unreasonable.

In regard to your suggestion that these leases should be given to the whole body of the ryots and not to single individuals, I quite appreciate it. The best thing will be for your Village Panchayat to take up the lease from Government on condition that it will pay up the amount and utilise the balance for local improvements; and, under the Village Panchayat Regulation which will soon become law, it is quite possible.

MEMBER : The Village Panchayat will deal with general matters only.

DEWAN : The Village Panchayat is for the improvement of the village as a whole. The Panchayat may take up the lease for the average amount and apply the surplus towards the improvement of any part of the village as it thinks fit.

You next refer to the maintenance of the village roads. I daresay they are being attended to though gradually. The maintenance grant has been increased this year for eleven roads.

MEMBER : There are two roads which have not been attended to.

DEWAN : You may bring that fact to the notice of the Chief Engineer. There may be roads which have not been taken over for maintenance. They must come gradually. All the cartable roads have not been metalled. The whole thing cannot be taken up all at once.

MEMBER : These roads are important roads.

DEWAN : Have you mentioned those particular roads ?

MEMBER : They are (1) the road from Kulattupuzha Chowkey to Paramaneri tank ; and (2) the road from the Police station in the Nadar street in Samburvadakara.

DEWAN : They will be looked into by the Chief Engineer.

Then you want a separate irrigation overseer for the Shencottah taluk.

MEMBER : There is another road, the Ayikudi-Nainaragraharam road.

DEWAN : What about that ?

MEMBER : It is not in proper condition.

DEWAN : It appears that an estimate for Rs. 15,000 has been sanctioned. The work will be taken up. You also refer to a bridge at Klankad. That matter is being considered.

MEMBER : I referred to the bridge across the Hanumannadi. I pray that a permanent bridge be put up.

DEWAN : A bridge means annual repair and maintenance.

MEMBER : In Shencottah, there was a wooden bridge. Now a permanent bridge is put up. I have not seen any repair done to it for the last so many years.

DEWAN : Every bridge requires annual maintenance. You want the causeways to be replaced by bridges. That is the complaint. I have asked the Chief Engineer if possible to replace these two causeways by bridges at a reasonable cost.

In regard to your suggestion regarding a separate irrigation overseer for the Shencottah taluk, the Chief Engineer has pointed out that an overseer does not represent an administrative unit. Further, it is waste of money to maintain separate establishments for irrigation and roads. Here it is the same establishment that has supervision over these two. It is different, I know, in British India where the minor irrigation tanks are much more numerous than here and the work has to be attended to by a separate department. But that is not the case here. In the Shencottah taluk alone, the conditions are somewhat different from the rest of the State. We have an adequate staff in that taluk. There is a section supervisor ; and an overseer has been recently posted to assist him.

MEMBER : I want only two officers. There is no necessity for entertaining additional hands.

DEWAN : We cannot allow that in the case of one taluk alone. There must be uniformity in the method of administration. We cannot abolish the supervisor without proper reasons. We have section officers and overseers under them. We have got a regular gradation of officers for effective supervision. We cannot do away with the higher officers and replace them by inferior officers.

MEMBER : There is also one other road, the extension of the west car street road at Klankad.

DEWAN : I cannot be dealing with each and every item of work that you have been referring to. You have not given notice of all these roads. That is a thing which has got to be investigated. The Chief Engineer will investigate it and report.

As regards the cattle stands, you said that one acre out of the Perumalkulam lands should be set apart for the purpose. In the first place, it is not sufficiently dry.

In the second place, it is very costly. If it is absolutely necessary, definite proposals for the acquisition of cheap land should be made by the Municipality and the same will be considered by the Government.

In regard to grazing grounds, you say that they are insufficient. There is a big reserve within five or six miles of the Shencottah town, and indigenous cattle can graze freely there. I therefore fail to see any need for additional grazing grounds. It is impossible to acquire additional grazing grounds, especially at the cost of Government.

MEMBER : The reserve is five or six miles away. The cattle have to return the same day.

DEWAN : Why should they return daily ?

MEMBER : They are milch cows.

DEWAN : You must feed milking cows in stalls and send them to the nearest cattle stand for some exercise.

MEMBER : I want grazing grounds for milch cows.

DEWAN : You have got one.

MEMBER : That is absolutely useless. The cattle simply go round the hill and return.

DEWAN : If the village community can take it up and make it more useful, Government will be very glad.

Regarding the Puliara Agricultural Inspector, as I said yesterday, he has plenty of time at his disposal. He must go round. I have told Dr. Kunjan Pillai about it and he says that this officer has been touring the whole taluk. There is no use in his staying at Puliara all the time.

MEMBER : Some time back he was staying at Puliara. Now he has removed from there. For the last two years, I have not seen him going anywhere.

DEWAN : It is a matter which the Director of Agriculture must enquire into. He has not got full work at the farm. There are maistries and coolies who can work there under his supervision.

As regards the question of remission of tax in respect of dry crops raised on wet lands in Ayikudi, Klankad and Samburvadakara, I will ask the Land Revenue Commissioner to investigate it and to make a report ; and then the Government will examine how far your claim for remission is justifiable.

As regards the establishment of an ayurvedic dispensary at Ayikudi, we have not established Government ayurvedic dispensaries anywhere in the mofussil. The Government encourage grant-in-aid institutions ; and if any institution is started at Ayikudi or Shencottah, Government will be glad to render the necessary help.

MEMBER : The people of the locality do not take to the study of Ayurveda.

DEWAN : In that case, some Ayurvedic Physician may open a dispensary. The Government grant ranges from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20. He can also get fees from the patients.

MEMBER : I suggested it because an allopathic dispensary is somewhat costly. If Government cannot open an ayurvedic dispensary, a small allopathic dispensary may be started at Ayikudi.

DEWAN : The Darbar Physician will be asked to look into the matter.

Then as regards wells, personally, I do think that there is need for the sinking of wells in Shencottah. I have been urging it on the attention of the P. W. D. The provision of Rs. 1,000 is inadequate and I consider that a larger provision is necessary.

MEMBER : People are put to difficulty for want of cocoanut oil and laurel oil.

DEWAN : They are dutiable articles.

MEMBER : The traders in these oils have gone on strike.

DEWAN : The people must then start co-operative societies for the purpose.

MEMBER : In regard to the hardship caused by *poramboke* cases, I repeat my suggestions, and pray that, if Government approve them, they may be forwarded to the Tahsildar, for many cases are pending with him.

DEWAN : The representation will be referred to the Land Revenue Commissioner as soon as possible.

MEMBER : In regard to the acquisition of the Perumalkulam tank, the injunction order has been withdrawn at the instance of the party concerned. The lands are now available for house construction.

DEWAN : The matter will be looked into.

33. Needs of Vaikam.

MR. R. KALYANASUNDARAM AIYAR (*Member, Municipal Council, Vaikam*) urged the following needs of Vaikam :--

- (i) Improvement of Perinchilavu *todu* from the junction of Kaniyan *todu* to Puttan *todu*.
- (ii) Making the Kaniyan *todu* navigable.
- (iii) Improvement of the canal connecting the Kaniyan *todu* and Puttan *todu*.
- (iv) Improvement of Antakara *todu* as far as the Vembanad lake.
- (v) Improvement of the *todu* from Mariyankulam to Perinchilavu.
- (vi) Restoration and improvement of Kadi *todu*.
- (vii) All the roads maintained by the P. W. D. and Maramat Departments to be widened, metalled and provided with side-drains.
- (viii) Improvement of certain lanes.
- (ix) Repair or construction of the wooden bridge on the Tekke *todu*.
- (x) Extension of the jetty at the western landing.
- (xi) The provision of a travellers' bungalow.

As regards the wooden bridge, he said that it was in a precarious condition and people had to take a circuitous route to go to the other side of the Tekke *todu* for fear of accident. It would be better if the wooden bridge could be removed and a ferry opened immediately until the construction of a new bridge is completed.

He also said that the Vaikam Devaswom should be asked to pay to the Municipality an annual contribution of not less than Rs. 150 for the work the Municipality had to render to the temple in connection with the removal of refuse matter.

His next suggestion was to remove the barricades now put up on the roads. He said that the Municipality had to issue licenses to cart owners who complained that, owing to the existence of the barricades in question, there was no free passage. One of those barricades had been removed and only a police outpost had been established in that place. The same might be done as regards the other places also.

DEWAN : Do you want the barricades to be removed ? If you bring this matter to my notice separately, I shall look into it.

MEMBER : The municipal roads should be free from obstruction for carts to pass freely. Now, the *satyagraha* volunteers are standing on the road which is narrow.

DEWAN : The Chief Engineer says that the Kaniyan *todu* work is in progress.